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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION HELD IN ITS OFFICES ON MARCH 10, 2017

Commission Chairman Sally A. Talberg called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

Executive Secretary Delegate Lisa Felice called the roll and declared there was a quorum.

PRESENT

Commission: Sally A. Talberg, Chairman
Norman J. Saari, Commissioner
Rachael A. Eubanks, Commissioner

Staff: Karen Kostbade
Judy Palnau
Lisa Felice
Angela McGuire

Public: Donald G. Hazzard
Candace Gonzales, Consumers Energy
Bob Stewart, Frontier Communications
Don Stanczak, DTE
Karen Wienke, Consumers Energy
Garrick Rochow, Consumers Energy
Roger Morgenstern, Consumers Energy
Toni Noakes, Consumers Energy
Ian Burgess, Consumers Energy
Adella Crozier, DTE
Trevor Lauer, DTE
Sean Gallagher, Clark Hill/ABATE
Jacob Kanclerz, MIRS
Yvette Collins, AT&T

- I.** Commissioner Saari moved to approve today's agenda, Commissioner Eubanks seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The agenda was approved.

- II.** Commissioner Saari moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting of February 28, 2017, Commissioner Eubanks seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The minutes were approved.

III. ORDERS

A. ELECTRIC

1. U-15801 COMMISSION’S OWN MOTION
(electric choice)

Case No. U-15801 is a matter, on the Commission’s own motion, to implement the provisions of Section 10a(1) of 2016 PA 341 regarding allocation of the amount of load to be served by an alternative electric supplier. The order before you provides for public comments. Commissioner Saari moved that the Commission approve the order at its March 10, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Eubanks seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

2. U-15805 CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
(contract)

Case No. U-15805 involves an application by Consumers Energy Company for approval of an engineering, procurement, and construction contract with White Construction, Inc. for Cross Winds II. The order before you approves the contract as in compliance with Public Act 295 of 2008. Commissioner Saari moved that the Commission approve the order at its March 10, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Eubanks seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

3. U-18115 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(public utility assessments)

Case No. U-18115 is an investigation commenced on the Commission's own motion to consider revisions to the implementation of Public Act 299 of 1972 as it pertains to the amount of public utility assessments to be paid by regulated entities. The order before you modifies the public utility assessment applicable to telecommunications providers, and adopts a revised fee schedule for natural gas producers and pipeline operators, and common carrier petroleum pipeline operators. Commissioner Saari moved that the Commission approve the order at its March 10, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Eubanks seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The order was adopted.

4. U-18239 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(Consumers Energy Company)
U-18248 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(DTE Electric Company)
U-18253 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation)
U-18254 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(Upper Peninsula Power Company)
U-18258 COMMISSION'S OWN MOTION
(Cloverland Electric Cooperative)

Case Nos. U-18239 *et al.*, are matters, on the Commission's own motion, to open dockets to implement the provisions of Section 6w of 2016 PA 341 for the service territories of Consumers Energy Company, DTE Electric Company, Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation, Upper Peninsula Power Company, and Cloverland Electric Cooperative. The order before you reschedules prehearing conferences for Consumers Energy Company and DTE Electric Company, orders the Commission Staff to commence a technical conference to address various issues, and provides for other relief as more fully set forth in the order. Commissioner Saari moved that the Commission approve the order at its March 10, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Eubanks seconded that motion.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks

Nays – None

The order was adopted.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Talberg Commented:

“As part of the public comment period, we have with us today Garrick Rochow, Senior Vice President of Distribution and Customer Operations for Consumers Energy, and Trevor Lauer, President and COO of DTE Electric, to give us an update on their electric system restoration programs.

We appreciate their time today and don’t want to keep them here long because we know they have responsibilities with their company’s restoration efforts. This is the largest, combined, statewide electric outage in history. At times, approximately one-third of Michigan residents were affected by a power outage.

Historically, the Commission has seen major outages caused by snow and ice storms in the winter, and thunderstorms in the summer. But we have NOT experienced the extensive electric system damage that we have seen from this intense windstorm. The number of broken utility poles, and downed electric wires is greater than what we experienced in the past.

We ask that residents help us help their neighbors. We know there might be people who are more vulnerable during a power outage or a very cold night. Please check in on neighbors, friends and family. When you do, please remember these safety tips:

- *Always stay away from downed wires.*
- *Never use generators inside houses, businesses or enclosed spaces.*

Utilities have deployed new technology in implementing public safety and restoration programs by tracking outages, assigning work crews, delivering equipment and material, and communicating with customers.

Still, we need to keep working with the Michigan State Police and organizations like the Red Cross and community groups to ensure warming centers and other resources are available as needed. Thank you for keeping the Commission and the Governor’s office up to date on your progress with the restoration efforts”.

Trevor Lauer, DTE Electric Company updated the Commission on its recent storm restoration efforts and programs.

Garrick Rochow, Consumers Energy Company updated the Commission on its recent storm restoration efforts and programs.

An audio recording of the proceedings of the March 10, 2017 meeting is archived in podcast format at: <http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/execsec/podcasts/mpsc-cm-02-28-17.mp3>.

Chairman Talberg announced that the next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will be held on March 28, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Saari moved that the Commission adjourn, Commissioner Eubanks seconded.

Vote: Yeas – Talberg, Saari, Eubanks
Nays – None

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Kavita Kale
Executive Secretary